

06-02-2005

Dear Senator,

We are writing in opposition to HB 522. We have deep concerns about the safety of our family with the construction of the Wolverine pipeline. The proposed pipeline would lie less than 29 ft. from our home and less than 20 ft. from our private well. In a letter dated July 23rd 2002, from the Michigan Public Service Commission paragraph one lines 13,14,and 15 state, "The route has no residences within 50 feet of the pipeline and few within 150 feet of the pipeline." The Wolverine Pipeline Company has sent their Vice President, Environmental Engineer, and the head of construction to our home, in an effort to resolve the issue. While we are thankful for their time and consideration in this matter it doesn't change the fact that they are still less than 30 feet from our home. The misrepresentation of the facts to both the public and the House Members in regards to distances from dwellings concerns us even more. We were also told by their Environmentalist that in the event of a small leak our CLAY soil would help protect our water supply from Benzene. Sounds ok; however, we live on the Grand River and our soil is almost pure SAND. Since our meeting with Wolverine, we have hired an independent contractor to evaluate the soil for septic purposes. This is how we found our soil to be sand, also the best type of soil for a perk. We have also had a stake placed on the right of way 50 feet from our home and it is clearly 21 feet north from the Wolverine stake. Could there be any other misrepresentations of the facts? We are hard working people and the proud parents of five boys. We love our home as do our boys, and don't want to leave. If this bill passes without the same wording, "No residences within 50 feet of the pipeline", we will be left with no other option but to fight Wolverine Pipeline Company and The State of Michigan in the Courts. We will be seeking an immediate injunction to stop construction of the pipeline in an effort to secure the safety of our family. We are aware that such an action will put a financial drain us, but we are determined to fight for our home. We ask that you would consider the impact of your vote on small families such as ours, and not just the few cents per gallon of gas that the

pipeline may or may not save us at the pumps. We don't complain about the noise from the highway traffic or the occasional shotgun sound from a blown out tire on a truck.

When the State of Michigan bought the land for highway use, it was to make commuting easier, a benefit to the public as a whole. I'm certain it would have been difficult sell to adjoining land owners if the State would have said Highway/pipeline/tower relay/power cable/etc. Why should the owners next to the highway have to carry the burden for this, in addition to the highway. Wolverine Pipeline Company has an easement through Meridan Township over a protected water supply. It has been my experience as a Real Estate Broker in Michigan for the past 17 years that utility lots usually sell last and for less money. It was no secret to those who built near the pipeline, and I'm sure they benefited from the pricing of the lots. It has also come to our attention that many members of the Michigan Public Service Commission are Meridian Township residents. If this is true, I would think that would constitute a serious conflict of interest in making any recommendations on the route of the pipeline. We thank you for you time and consideration in this matter and look forward to speaking on Tuesday at the Committee Meeting.



Brett and Beth Shaw

Dear Senator,

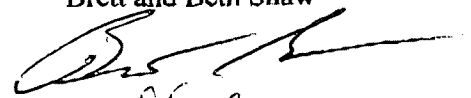

In a follow up to a fax that your office received last Thursday concerning HB 522, we would like to add additional information for your consideration and photos to support our findings. You will recall that a press release from the Michigan Public Service Commission, dated July 23, 2002, stated there were NO residences within 50 feet of the pipeline. In an effort to assure you that it was not a typo in their release, we would like to provide you with additional documentation. In a 38 page consent order by the Michigan Public Service Commission, also dated July 23, 2002, page 26, paragraph 3, lines 7,8,and 9 state "It points to Mr. Mazuchowski's testimony that his field observations led to the conclusion that there are NO residences within 50 feet of the pipeline and few residences within 150 feet." In the same consent order by the Michigan Public Service Commission, pages 27 and 28, paragraph 4, lines 2,3,4,5,and 6 state "The Commission finds that there are no homes within 50 feet, and few residences within 150 feet, of the proposed route. This means that disruption to the community during construction and maintenance activities should be minimized. Also, the greater the distance between residential or commercial structures and the pipeline, the less likely any pipeline failure will injure people or property. Given the length of the pipeline, there is minimal congestion."

We have also enclosed satellite photos showing the distance between our home and the right of way, as well as photos of the Wolverine Pipeline stake in relationship to the 50 foot stake from our home. Clearly the pipeline is within 30 foot from our home. In reading the 38 page consent order, we were offended by the references to the Meridian Township homes and the playground that the pipeline crosses. It's not that it shouldn't be a concern, but our children will be sleeping 10 hours per night within 30 foot of this line. We still feel that a commission made up of all Meridian Township residents, making decisions that benefit their neighbors, and putting out false information about residents that the pipeline will effect if this bill passes, is a conflict of interest. An outside independent agency should have looked at Meridian Township and given an opinion as to whether or not the line could safely be replaced. We do not wish to leave our home, and if Wolverine Pipeline Company and The State of Michigan are going to state that there are no homes within 50 feet of the pipeline, then make it so. We have two acres with 432 feet on the Grand River in Dimondale. We would ask that if this bill passes, that Wolverine rebuild our home on our lot, at a safer distance from the pipeline, and provide us with a water filtration system to protect us from any possible leak.

Many people in society share the burden of progress. Many live near airports, landfills, railroads, etc., and many like us live near highways. The people of Meridian Township have a petroleum pipeline. They built around it and knew it was there. They should be thankful that technology has progressed since the installation of the line, and the line can now be lowered to a safer level. With requirements to phone Miss Dig, they should feel even safer. They should also feel very fortunate that they have a protected water supply, unlike the Windsor Township residents, and shouldn't worry about their children drinking benzene in the event of a leak.

We would again like to thank the Senators for their time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Brett and Beth Shaw

Members of the House, we would like to thank you for the for the opportunity to speak before you today.

We are here today in opposition to Senate Bill 522. We live in Dimondale with our five boys along the route of the proposed pipeline. Last fall, we found out two days before the House hearings, that the proposed pipeline would be placed next to our home, and that the stakes on the highway right of way were in fact the stakes marking the proposed route. After further investigation and measurements, we found the line to be within 29 feet of our home and within 20 feet of our private well. We have been opposed to this bill ever since. The argument has been made that it may be within 30 feet, but it is over 20 feet deep, making it 50 feet from our home. We feel that this is a spin on the distance by the company. We are confident that MDOT, when requiring the pipeline to be over 35 feet from the white line, did not mean 35 feet under the white line.

In a press release from the Michigan Public Service Commission, dated July 23, 2002, it states there were NO residences within 50 feet of the proposed pipeline. In a 38 page consent order by the Michigan Public Service Commission, also dated July 23, 2002, page 26, paragraph 3, lines 7,8,and 9 state "It points to Mr. Mazuchowski's testimony that his field observations led to the conclusion that there are NO residences within 50 feet of the pipeline, and few within in 150 feet". In the same consent order by the Michigan Public Service Commission, pages 27 and 28, paragraph 4, lines 2,3,4,5,and 6, state " The Commission finds that there are no homes within 50 feet, and few residences within 150 feet, on the proposed route. This means that disruption to the community during construction and maintenance activities should be minimized. Also, the greater the distance between residential or commercial structures and the pipeline, the less likely any pipeline failure will injure people or property. Given the length of the pipeline, there is minimal congestion". Our prayer is that if the bill does pass, that an amendment would be put in the bill by this committee stating that the pipeline must remain 50 feet laterally from any residence, similar to the amendment that Senator Basham proposed in the Senate Committee and again on the Senate floor.

County Commissioners have testified to exploding pipelines in New Jersey with 200 foot fireballs, others have testified to water safety concerns, and we have found evidence on the internet of many other accidents with

pipelines around the country. So when we say we are very afraid of the pipeline being less than 30 feet from Mike and Alex's bedroom, we don't feel that it is at all unfounded. The same arguments made on behalf of the Meridian Township residents are the same circumstances we find ourselves in, with one major exception: we have an unprotected water supply. What we don't understand is, that given the same circumstances, why should one residents' problems be dumped on another?

Lastly, it has come to our attention that certain lobbyists representing Wolverine have indicated that the reason we are pursuing this issue, is to make Wolverine Pipeline Company purchase our home. This is another spin and A LIE, which we are very much offended by, given the seriousness of the situation. We have discussed with Wolverine thru their Attorney, Christine Mason-Sonneral, the protection of our water supply, the moving of our home on our lot to a safer distance, and we have discussed with them giving us fair market value for our home, in the event no other resolutions could be made. These items were discussed for the safety of our family only. Any of the above would provide no benefit to our family that we don't already have pre-pipeline. We do not wish to leave our home.

In closing, we would like to state that the representatives from Wolverine and their attorney have tried to work with us on the water issue, agreeing to move our well and install a water filtration system; for this, we are grateful. We have found them to be polite and very professional. All we are asking is that they move their pipeline 50 feet from our home or move our home 50 feet from the line.



We spoke with John King this morning by telephone. He admits that there is absolutely NOTHING that would prohibit Wolverine from coming within 50 feet of our residence, the way that Senate Bill 522 is currently written.

We would like to again thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beth Shaw".

Beth Shaw

06-07-2005

Dear Senator,

Senate Bill 522 will be up for the full Senate vote on Wednesday morning, after passing the Senate Committee. At the Committee meeting, an amendment was proposed that no residences would be within 50 feet of the pipeline, and was voted down by 4 of the Members. We are asking that the amendment be brought to the floor and voted on. If the Wolverine Pipeline Company and the Michigan Public Service Commission are saying that there are no homes within 50 feet, then there should be no objection by them to the amendment. The fact of the matter is, there are over 6 stakes all labeled pipeline along the highway right of way put there by Wolverine. Photos were taken to your offices by my wife and I today. The only way to insure that there are no residences within 50 foot of the line is to put it in writing. Thank you again for your time.



Brett Shaw